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November 25, 1904

INDIA.

Mortality of Bombay city—Enteric fever in Poona—Plague in Bombay Presidency—Deaths among the inoculated—Fevers in Bombay Presidency.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hume reports as follows:

Mortality of Bombay city for the weeks ended October 11 and 18, 1904.

Mortality of Bombay city.

	Week ended—	
	Oct. 11.	Oct. 18.
Plague attacks.....	85.00	77.00
Plague deaths.....	71.00	68.00
Plague mortality per 1,000.....	4.75	4.55
Smallpox deaths.....	0.00	3.00
Cholera deaths.....	7.00	3.00
Total deaths.....	650.00	620.00
Total mortality per 1,000.....	43.55	41.54

Cholera is rapidly dying out, the few cases reported being widely scattered.

Plague does not increase much; some of the cases are imported in spite of precautions.

I have the following transactions to report for the week ending October 22, 1904:

Under date October 20, 1904, sanitary certificate No. 61, accompanying consular invoice No. 253 of 1904, was issued for 37 bales of East India wool packed in naphthalene. Value, rupees, 4,835½ (\$1,568.63).

Under date October 21, 1904, sanitary certificate No. 62, accompanying consular invoice No. 255 of 1904, was issued for 81 bales of East India wool packed in naphthalene. Value, rupees, 15,792 (\$5,122.92).

The shippers in both cases were Latham & Co., of Bombay, and the consignees, similarly, were Tattersfield & Co., of Philadelphia. The wool was shipped by the steamship *Scindia*, of the Anchor Line, to be transhipped in Glasgow.

Enteric fever in Poona and the conditions favoring its existence.

AMERICAN CONSULATE, BOMBAY, October 28, 1904.

I have the honor to quote below a statement concerning the existence of enteric fever in Poona, one of the three chief cities of this Presidency, lying 119 miles southeast of Bombay. In my letter of September 4, 1904, I referred to this prevalence of enteric there, and now give you the following excellent statement as to the conditions favoring it. I quote from the Times of India, dated October 27, 1904:

The city and cantonments (i. e., the European residence section) of Poona are set in a cup-like hollow surrounded by hills which prevent free circulation of air. In this stagnant atmosphere, after the street sweeping of the early morning, dust clouds hang in dry and hot weather. It is not difficult to understand how an unprotected water supply can in this way become defiled. That it is impossible to protect an open canal in any country from defilement goes without saying, and in India we know that there are still more potent causes. It is not necessary, however, to travel outside the city and cantonment for unsanitary conditions.